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THE EYECON

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Thank you for reading the first publication of Toronto's multicultural newsmagazine. While this magazine is targeting the young adults of Toronto, our issues are of much concern to the greater population.

Allow me to explain that The Eyecon team has to work so far ahead to produce a monthly magazine and we cannot always bring you the latest news the way TV, radio and the daily papers can. Therefore, our objective is to target issues that we believe is critical to the well-being of the city and the country.

This first issue of The Eyecon targets the economic changes that are taking place in Toronto. Every individual, whether rich, poor or middle class is affected by the lack of care provided by the province. However, we cannot blame the politicians, for we are also responsible for the state of our lives. We are very much consumed with technology and glamour that we have neglected the essentials for a successful life. We should strive to improve the quality of life and furthermore provide a good example for the younger generations to follow.

Our group of young, enthusiastic journalists has come forth with theories, predictions and even positive notes on Toronto's economy and population. We expect our readers to have an open minded to the possibilities, take part in our optimism and take measure to bring about change.

Our sincere heartfelt thanks goes out to Mr. Balasingam Amarasegaram for his generous donation. Without the help of Mr. Amarasegam, the publication of our first issue would have been impossible. I would also like to thank my fellow journalists and contributors. I would like to leave you with this quote from Ryunosuke Satoro,

Individually, we are one drop.

Together, we are an ocean."

Ines I.

editor@theeyecon.com

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DRAVIDIAN MEDIA



Free of famine, endless epidemics and ravaging foes—
Now that is a flourishing nation.

-Thiruvalluvar Kural (734)

Disclaimer:

Our goal is to become your favourite youth information paper by providing you the information, services and product offerings that are most relevant to you. All the articles are displayed with an objective of giving the reader the latest of what's happening. Eyecon refers to many newspapers and publication (both print and online editions) and due credit is attributed to the source. Eyecon assumes no liability for any inaccurate, delayed, omission or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. Information & articles supplied by an individual, organization, or firm has been supplied by such individual, organization or firm without any verification by us.

Over the years Canada, more specifically Toronto competed to be one of the safest and most desirable places to live in. Now however, we are more concerned about whether living in Toronto is affordable. Education, health and dental care are all services that are costing Torontonians thousands of dollars a year, let alone a month! According to Ontario Facts, our economy is at its all time high, employment rates have increased over the past two years and the minimum wage has also increased by 75 cents. These are all sufficient signs of an affordable city. However, if our economy is expanding, our employment rates are increasing and both parents are working, why aren't people benefiting from the economic boost? This is because, even if an average family loses most of its earnings to tax deductions, the government is still helping the economy - hence preventing economic freefall.

More importantly, Ontario is fretfully falling into the rich-poor gap, in which the rich get richer and the poor get increasingly poorer. In her report, Armine Yalnizyan claims that "the after-tax income gap between the richest 10% and poorest 10% of families in Ontario is at an all-time high - higher, even, than the national trends". The article further evaluates the distribution of income among families in Ontario. As Yalnizyan points out, "Fully 40% of Ontario's families have seen almost no income gains or, worse, actual income losses compared to their predecessors 30 years ago". According to reports, the income of the richest 10% of the population has risen whereas the incomes of the bottom 40% have not risen since 2000.

However, it is not just about the rich and the poor, more and more Ontarians are finding it difficult to make ends meet. While Ontario Facts indicates that consumer prices will remain stable in Ontario with expected inflation rates by only 1.9 percent in 2008, it is evident that living costs are rising more quickly. Prices of gas as well as basic necessities such as milk and bread are rising by the year, making it difficult for families to afford a decent living. For example, ten years ago the price of gas was around 40 cents and minimum wage was \$7.50. However, now the price of gas is minimum \$114.0, with minimum wage at a low of \$8.75. Alongside gas prices, the price of milk has doubled since 1994. In fact in 2008, price of milk increased by 30 cents a gallon to 4.60, price of eggs went up by 38 cents to 1.86 and cost for loaf of bread will be costing us more than gasoline!

Year	Min. Wage	Gas Prices (min.-max.)
1998	7.45	53.7-62.0
2005	7.50	91.0- 113.0
2006	7.75	101.0-119.0
2007	8.00	98.0-114.0
2008	8.75	112.7-increasing

With the growing difference between an individual's income and the high cost of living, more and more people are working overtime, exceeding limits of credit cards and falling into debt. With more and more families falling into the debt and hardship, is life in Ontario affordable?

People are asking the Government of Canada to take action. For instance, citizens are pressuring the government to regulate gas prices. But what does this mean for consumers? For one, government involvement could turn away potential suppliers. In turn this would leave Torontonians high and dry.

Therefore, the only way we could find a solution to this problem is by finding a way to help our wholesalers in Ontario as well as the consumers. More importantly, there should be ways to help middle class Torontonians. It does not make sense for a nuclear family to have both parents working to only face income tax cuts and an increase in grocery bills.

With an economic boost on the merge, the province should work toward making life affordable to Torontonians. We cannot have middle class descending to poor living conditions for it will only decrease the value of our city. The wealth of a city should be portrayed in the living conditions of its population

Facts:

Debt

As a percentage of disposable income, debt has risen from 72 per cent of after-tax income in 1985 to almost 120 per cent in 2004. Credit card use and mortgage debt have both increased

Children

In 2001 18.4 per cent of Canadian children lived below the poverty line.

CEOs

The average income of the 100 highest paid chief executive officers in Canada is \$9,059,113 per year.

Education = Intelligence?

Education is clearly the root of success and step one of everyone's Canadian dream. If you don't have much of it, you're not making the big bucks – this is the unfortunate reality of this economy. Of course there are many people, including skilled immigrants, with limited education who are business owners; but, without a certain level of education, there's a cap to the success these individuals achieve. The dirty truth of the matter is, the level of respect with which others regard you is slightly (who am I kidding? More like severely) higher when you've got LL.B., M.B.B.S. or MBA behind your name.

Employers' first impression of us comes from what we look like on paper, ie. our credentials, job experience, how many degrees we hold, etc. Getting a job as even an administrative assistant is difficult these days; there are college courses offered to 'teach' you how to become an administrative assistant. What job do we not need to go to school for?

And while we speak of school, it's necessary to point out that the price of this is no joke in Canada, particularly Ontario – we're talking thousands and thousands of dollars in tuition fees, books, living expenses, hidden 'system' fees, etc. Sure there's OSAP, but when you come out of a fully OSAP funded education, and you receive their 'time to pay back' notifications – you realize exactly what kind of mess you got yourself into. There are students out there with hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans. How long will it take to pay that back? Five years? Ten years? Twenty? Even if you're a doctor or a lawyer, or both, it's going to take you at least five years to pay it back with interest – unless of course you don't intend to get married and have kids (those things as little as they are, are a huge financial investment, believe it or not).

Of course there are professions such as medicine that require formal training; you're not a doctor without your M.D. However, there are certain jobs we can surely work our way up to. I have a friend who was turned down for a managerial position that she was the most qualified and experienced for, having worked at this organization for eight years, simply because she did not have her masters. The position was given to an individual who worked there for only 2 years – but she had her masters so therefore, she must have been more qualified.

It seems that no matter how we look at it, there is a roadblock somewhere in the ladder up to success without further education. So, we are led to believe that education equals intelligence. Or is this just a methodical way of filtering out the 'bad' apples?

Thusha Tharmalingam



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Funding Post-Secondary Education: A Student Perspective on OSAP

So you're finally in the program of your choice and everything seems great until you get that notice that's entitled "Tuition Payments". For a lot of people getting into university or college is one thing, but being able to pay the rising costs of tuition, books, travelling and living is another. If your parents had set up a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for you as a child or are willing to pay for your schooling, lucky you, but the reality of the rising costs of living has made it more and more difficult for the average-income parent to assist their children in their educational needs.

As a student who has graduated university and now pursuing graduate work, I want to share with you some very important information about how you can best utilize the resources and opportunities available to you as a student to help finance your education. This information will allow you to understand what funding opportunities are available to you and how you can go about obtaining them. Much of what I will offer you here is a summary of how the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) works and some of the various scholarships, bursaries and grants you may be entitled to.

As a student, I spent several hours researching different assistance programs to determine which one was best for me. During my undergraduate education, I felt my academics and doing well in school was far more important than working extra hours and shifts to pay for school. It's important for you to know that most graduate programs are very competitive and require very strong academic grades for admissions. How much money you made during your undergraduate education is absolutely useless. So take your education seriously and obtain financial assistance if you need it.

So let's begin talking about OSAP and what it is exactly. The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) is a NEEDS- BASED PROGRAM. I put that in capital letters because, if you don't absolutely need it, then don't get it. You will feel a lot more at ease when you graduate, knowing you have no or little debt. I've heard of people who have used it to purchase a car, a new cell phone and of course probably the most common, to party. Just remember that you're paying it back with interest so be smart about the money. The purpose of OSAP is to provide students with loans, grants, scholarships and bursaries based on a formula that compares your educational costs to expected contributions from your parents or your spouse (if applicable) and your own income and assets (OSAP website, 2008). So that means if you own a BMW (or any expensive car) or you own a home, you're very unlikely to get assistance from OSAP.

If you would like to obtain information on how much financial assistance is available to you, check out the OSAP website at <https://osap.gov.on.ca/>. The site offers you a student financial assistance calculator which will help you calculate the approximate costs of your college or university program, the estimated financial aid that you may expect through OSAP. The estimator will also show you the approximate amount that you and your family may be expected to contribute (OSAP website, 2008).

In addition to the loan amount you may receive from OSAP, you may also be eligible for grants and bursaries. These are amounts that are given to students based on their financial needs that you typically do not have to pay back. Some of the values can range up to \$3,000. You must submit one fully completed OSAP application form in order to be considered for these awards. A scholarship is another form of financial help available for students, who demonstrate high academic merit.

Here is a list, directly from OSAP, of the grants and bursaries available to full-time students. For Part-time students and other separate application-based awards, please see the OSAP website.

- **Canada Access Grant for Students from Low-Income Families** is worth up to \$3,000. It assists first-time, first-year students from low-income families with tuition costs.
- **Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities** is worth up to \$2,000 per year. It assists students with permanent disabilities to meet educational and living costs.
- **Canada Study Grant for Students with Dependants** assists students with dependants who have high financial need. The value of the bursary is dependent weeks of study and number of dependents.

Colors of the Rainbow

By: Ruban Jesudiahara

Everyone has a colour that they like in particular. It could be for sentimental reasons or just plain fact that they just want to have a favourite colour. In my opinion everyone should have a favourite colour but ever wonder what were some of the particular symbolism associated with your colour? Well, this article should give you an idea of what your favourite colour represents.

All of the bright or warm colours like red, orange and yellow convey a feeling of gaiety, happiness, optimism and sense of comfort. These colours are generally considered warm, perhaps because of their association with fire and the sun.

The colour blue has been a symbolism of water for the longest time but did you ever look at Lake Ontario? That has to be the greenest blue in the world. Besides the humour, water is in fact clear so next time someone asks, "What colour is the water?" just promptly answer "clear." However, blue has been seen as a masculine colour for decades, perhaps because as a boy baby, you were wrapped under a 'blue blanket' from the hospital nurse. Green has been symbolism to renewal, freshness and everything related to nature. It could be because of the natural association of plants with the chemical chlorophyll which dilutes the minerals and nutrients of the plants to the chemical reaction colour of green.

Purple has been represented for royal subjects such as Kings and Queens for it is related to power and overwhelming control. However at the same time, a different shade of purple, such as lavender is gentle, passionate and easy going with everything. Red (which is my favourite colour) is seen as a colour used for anger, aggression and emotional distress but it is in fact a colour with its own meaning. Red can be used to tell that someone is angry but at the same time shy. It can be used to represent an angry bull but at the same time to show a delicate red rose. It is truly a colour that everyone should love with their heart for the colour of the blood is also red.

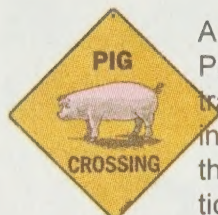
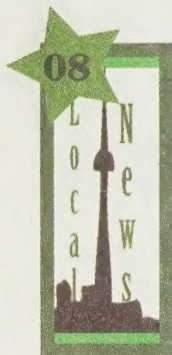
You may be wondering, what about white and black but the truth is that, they are not colours! They are shades of any given colour. For example, you can have a dark blue or a light green. The shades will represent the tone of the colour. The darker it is the shade, the deeper connotation you have for a particular subject matter. Vice-versa, the lighter the shade, the lack of importance is shown.

Finally, we might sometimes call people with a representations of colour, without ever knowing it, such as "green with envy," "purple with rage," or "in a brown study," if they are quietly gloomy. Remember next time what colour you call people because who knows what the symbolism, representation and implication could be about. By reading this article, hopefully you have found your favourite colour or rather understand it more clearly why you like a particular colour.



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401

April 14, 2008. 8.a.m.

Pigs were seen running across Highway 401 near Winston Churchill Blvd when a tractor-trailer hauling pigs hit a pick up truck, car and a van before hitting the ditch in the east of the Hwy. An estimate of 50 and 60 pigs escaped into the highway as the tractor-trailer caught fire. Police closed all lanes of the highway in both directions due to debris. Unfortunately, several pigs died in the crash. The uninjured pigs were found grazing in the grass ditch on the south side of the Hwy.

Trial Data Inaccurate

April 14, 2008.

Investigations were made after mistakes were found on Princess Margaret's data from Breast Cancer trial. The clinical drug trial data involved 300 patients, who were all assured that there was no deliberate tampering of the data. Dr. Robert Dell further explained that the mistakes consisted of missing dates or scans and the fact that the "errors were caught shows review processes built into the system are working and shouldn't undermine patients' confidence in the research of stop them from volunteering to take part in trials".

For further information refer to thestar.com

Spring Clean Brampton

Around 60,000 residents of Brampton joined together to clean the parks, greenbelts, boulevards, sidewalks and schoolyards. While Toronto is concerned with air pollution and finding ways to improve our automobiles, why not make a difference by cleaning the sidewalks of downtown Toronto? Community spring cleaning is a tradition that should be valued for the goodness of our Earth.

East End Gun Battle

Wednesday April 9, 2008.

Major traffic backups took place due to closure of several streets last week Wednesday. Police encountered a gun battle taking place between two vehicles in Scarborough around 6 p.m. According to reports, two gunmen in separate vehicles were firing at one another when the man on in vehicle drove to Toronto Police 43 Division and collapsed. He was taken to hospital after getting shot in the arm and leg. The other suspect was found after his vehicle was spotted at a near by apartment. So far, no details about charges have been released.



STUDENTS, TUITION & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

09

Does youth in the GTA still have the opportunity to accomplish their dreams? What is the classification of accomplishment and how and where does one stumble upon accomplishment? Does success depend on how much one studies or how craftily can one be clever enough to take experience and utilize it to enhance their future? More and more students are dropping out of college and universities. If light be shed be on this actuality, it would arise to one that tuition fees are reaching the sky. On the other hand where aid is most expected, student loans and grants seem to be descending out of the picture. It in fact makes me suppose it's a filthy scheme to prevent youngsters from achieving higher education. Is the price being demanded really worth the dreams of a better future that it portrays?

The government makes harsh decisions on keeping the tuition fees astonishingly high. In turn it causes a lot of youngsters to dropout and find modest occupations. They learn to work their way from a part/full time job to a career. Education is meant to be an investment, where basically all the money invested is going to result in profits in the future. This mentality encourages people to study hard and pay up any amount demanded in the name of tuition. But there comes a point for many where this investment walks its way into being expenditure. The system should be constructed in a manner to sustain the youth of today to attain a superior rank of education. In the companionship of the price tag on tuition gradually escalating per annum, this support seems impossible to reach.

Finding employment is far harder than one can visualize. The accurate value of a degree or diploma can be argued by the rate of youth employment. If paying unaffordable tuition still wouldn't permit a youth to get a job in their line of work due to lack of practice, then I guess the government needs to consent to a cut in tuition as a substitute to lowering funds supporting aids like grants and loans. Yes, any one can find a job, but what are the practical grounds behind spending loads of money studying law, engineering, medicine etc, when the only position that would hire a student is an under paying job which most times isn't even related to what profession he/she is pursuing.

It can securely be said for now that investing or spending on tuition is no longer a compulsory step to enhancing and securing one's future. Yes it is beneficial but with the cost of living increasing, having an education will soon be a luxury only attainable by the upper-level of society.

By:

Urvah Shahnawaz



grumpy.blog.co.uk/2006/08/

National News

Canada's Commander Resigns

Canada's senior military commander Gen. Rick Hillier has submitted his resignation letter to the Prime Minister. Hillier told the National Post that his resignation was entirely voluntary. Gen. Hillier has been Canada's chief of defense for the past three years and is commonly referred to as the "soldier's soldier" because he places the welfare of his troops ahead of everything else. According to 680News, Terry Copp (Director of the Laurier Academy for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies) said "this country couldn't have asked for a better leader".



Hells Angels Jailed



According to Canada.com B.C. Supreme Court Judge Anne Mackenzie sentenced three members of Hells Angels after they refused to testify at the trial of David Giles (another Hells Angels member) due to club loyalty. David Francis Giles, 58, was acquitted on charges of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking in association with a criminal organization. One of the two who refused to testify received six months in jail, another was given nine months while the third was sentenced to fifteen months in jail for contempt of court.

Two vessels were lost off N.L. coast



According to Canada.com, two vessels were lost in separate incidents off the coast of Newfoundland. The Lacey May vessel burst into flames just east of the town of Catalina on Monday April 14 around 11 a.m. It was five hours after the incident that coast guards rescued five sealers who had abandoned the ship and found refuge on an ice floe. In a second incident on the same day, a 15 meter vessel, known as the B.S. Venture, ran into the rocks on the west coast of Newfoundland. The six sealers who occupied the vessel managed to abandon their vessel and get onto a smaller speedboat and find their way to Rocky Harbor. Canadian Coast Guard spokesman Sam Whiffen claimed, "they sort of saved themselves". The Sealers explained that the vessel became disabled due to fuel problems just offshore. The crew tried to repair the B.S. Venture but since it was getting too close to the shore, the crew abandoned the vessel and jumped onto the speedboat.

www.theeyecon.com

RCMP raids Conservative party headquarters in Ottawa

According to 680news the RCMP raided the Conservative Party Headquarters in Ottawa at the request of Elections Canada due to allegations of spending irregularities during the 2006 election. Elections Canada claims that the Conservative Party spent 18.3 million dollars more than the federal elections budget. On Tuesday morning, the Conservative Party was under attack in the House of Commons over the RCMP raid when Stephen Harper stated the Tories are "rock solid" in their legal position. He further fended off allegations that his party broke spending laws during the last election.

• Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship is worth up to a maximum of \$3,500 per year for up to four years. It is awarded to students who have achieved the best marks at Ontario high schools.

In addition to all of these available bursaries, grants and scholarships, you may still be eligible for financial assistance from the following.

- 1) Financial aid from your University and College. These bursaries, grants and scholarships are offered through your financial aid office. You will be required to fill out an application to explain your needs. Some schools may want to interview you to fully understand the extent of your financial needs. Keep in mind that most of these assistance plans have deadlines for applications so make sure you are aware of them.
- 2) Other public and private scholarships and bursaries. For more information on these, speak with your financial aid officer.
- 3) Private student loans and lines of credit. Banks have created specific loans for students with relatively low interest rates. If this is the only option available to you, my advice is to shop around and see which bank might give you the best deal. Don't provide any of your personal information until you are ready to go ahead with a specific lender. Also, keep in mind the interest starts as soon as you start spending the money. Basically, you pay the minimum payment each month until you graduate.

Did you know?

The Ontario's Student Access Guarantee was created by the Government and the Colleges and Universities to ensure that no qualified Ontario student should be prevented from attending post-secondary education because of a lack of financial support.

The Ontario Work Study Plan is available for full-time students to obtain part-time employment while receiving financial assistance. This program allows you to earn a maximum income of \$1,000 per term.

If you wish to apply to OSAP for financial assistance, please visit <https://osap.gov.on.ca/>. The online application is free. The website provides you with more specific details regarding the process and other excellent opportunities. It's important that you understand the deadlines for applications and your loan responsibilities.

I understand that trying to figure out all these things may be frustrating and even time consuming. Just remember that you're making one of the greatest and most important investments of your life: your education! So plan ahead and don't let the cost of your education be a deterrent to your success.

Source:
OSAP Website, Retrieved April 8th, 2008, from
<https://osap.gov.on.ca/>.

By: Ranjith Mahen, B.P.H.E. (Kinesiology)

THE UNFORTUNATE

Everyday people judge me as a dirty slob,
But they don't realize I try to earn a decent job.

It's hard when your homeless and don't have an address,
Or when you're new to a country and all you want is success.

Begging people for change can really help me out,
Please don't reject me, please don't shout.

It hurts when you walk by and completely ignore me,
I won't spend it on drugs, I can guarantee.

It's hard to earn a living when you live in trash,
All I want to do is survive, all I want is some cash

Even if you don't have enough to give away and share,
Can't you just smile and show that you at least care.

By: Cathline Alexander





The Question I asked York

“ Ideology, Ideological State Apparatuses and Y

A question that frequently props up in academia is whether we, the academic community, are questioning enough. The tools of questioning can dismantle systems of mechanical belief and most professors express the idea of healthy questioning as means to productive progress. Hence when English Professor, Majero Bouman, introduced our class to the concept of ideology and state apparatuses (i.e. the theory of Louis Althusser) I began to feel the pinch: I felt the urge to use an essay assignment as a medium from which to question York University.

Louis Althusser's works stem from a Marxist analysis of social reality – he studied the economic grid that society is embedded in and explained how the minds of the people are tuned to complement such economic settings. In doing so, he questioned the structures within a capitalist society and studied their true roles within the capitalist agenda. This got me to locate myself in the capitalist system and realize the structures working on me – the realization was harsh and my eye pointed in the direction of York University. Suddenly, after being bathed in theory, I was cleansed into realizing, albeit partly, the true reality of my situation. Questions began to erupt within me and I had a serious question to ask York University.

Considering the fact that I have traveled half away across the planet to gain an education at York, I was not sure if I wanted an answer to this question. But I went on. Althusser had brought me to understand the latent power of the system and York University, fortunately or unfortunately, qualified as one such system with power. I went on a crusade for answers, questioning and examining the true meaning of being a part of York University. My question revolved around a simple, succinct idea of the effect York has on their students: in essence, I was asking York of its role in the production of minds. The Marxist cloud was raining heavily on me and I willingly drenched myself in it: I wanted to know whether York was actually a mere production line for minds tuned to the industry or a canvas for the creation of fresh minds with new ideas? The days of being swayed by an advertisement came to an abrupt end and I used the essay to scan for York University's contribution to the capitalist system.

The analysis my “under-development” undergraduate brain attempted, took my own degree program as an example from which to seek answers. I had written an article on Professional Writing a while back and the work figured my personal opinion on writing as an activity free from restraint. There are various different genres in writing but the article expressed how modern times were limiting the writing hand by imposing strict grammatical and structural rules – needless to say many of these rules apply to the benefit of various jobs in the industry. As such this article, coupled with Althusser allowed me to take York to court. I questioned York through my very own degree program and got to analyze an eerie reality: what does York do in the production of the self, ideas, you and I?

Of course, my work would not mean much to the scholarly eye, but to me it held crucial insight into the workings of a University. I never did hit on a concrete answer which surely did trouble me. But then as the very professor who welcomed me to question summed up, “There are no answers - not ones that end the problems”. My own mind however came to realize the intensity of a university education: I have now learnt to value the investment I have made even more. I do not know whether York is a mere production line or the opposite. However what I do know is that the locus of control lies within the student – make what you want to make of your education.

Perhaps my essay will fade away into the pile, but it got me into taking up a minor in Sociology – it brought me into positioning myself with a conscious. I agree, various programs work within their own unique frameworks, but to simply cater to a market would certainly rob a student of a novel beginning.

Do not lose hope though – after all York does “question every angle.” Or does it? Question.

By: Ali Abbas



His name is Rick, and he's been waiting to hear from the vet if his 10-year-old German Shepherd 'Bear' has cancer.

Unscramble the following words and complete the word search.

RTOONOT
RIECSP
AXT
ENOYM
ERUVENE
ABKN
SCUOMENRS
OYERPTV
CAEFINN
EPLNTOEYMM

Meter:
1-2 minutes: excellent!
3-4: keep trying
4-over: need practice

TRFGILTPBLOGM
SOKNNKFMXDERE
HYREMUSNOCMLP
KTDOMONEYBPRY
FREPNCXATALPT
PIUBBTSUMNOSR
TVNATPOCLKYLE
ROEATRPCIGMLV
AIVTNIGPRSEHO
FWEJWCYTRHNOP
PWRUNEEERETXP

Adventures of a Travel Addict



A Tamil Canadian teacher in Seoul

Ann Jaimi Alexander

Many Canadians have come across the thought of teaching abroad, especially in South Korea because the opportunities are endless compared to the current job market in Canada. This was exactly my reason for making the plunge, along with my endless desire to travel to many lands. Coming to this decision was tough even though I have travelled and lived abroad before, but this time it was in a different context in which I was unsure where it will all end. Securing a teaching job was the easy part; English speakers are in high demand all over the world. Getting ready to experience the culture clash was the challenge, one that is a continuous adventure in which I seem to be learning something new each day.

I arrived in Seoul a month ago and I am mesmerized by the beauty of this city. It's very cosmopolitan and very safe. Koreans are so kind, to the point where the man at the pizza store pulled up a stool and gave me a class of Coke while I waited for my pizza because everything here, from stores to apartments are extremely tiny so there is normally no space to sit while you wait. Koreans seem to appreciate the smallest things from foreigners; every time I say the only two phrases I know in Korean (hello and thank you), it always brings a smile to their face and their look of surprise mixed with anxiousness (due to the fact that most shop owners know absolutely no English so they are quite uncomfortable plus I'm a major minority in Korea where they don't take dark skin lightly) seems to vanish.



The Han river running through the city is more like a vertical lake because it's probably over a kilometre wide and runs through the entire city. There are numerous bridges throughout the city which are gorgeous at night as they are illuminated.

It's such an amazing feeling to be somewhere that is so unknown. It's an adventure for me to walk out on the street because even though people stare, I love that I don't know how I'm going to find my next meal in this land where everything fried and soaked in some kind of hot sauce is sold on the street for less than a dollar.

Living in Markham seems to have totally desensitized me to Asian people and their language so at times I forget where I really am. Then I look up a little further and see the mountains that surround majority of South Korea and it hits me; I'm the foreigner here yet I have not felt like that quite yet.



This was definitely a bold move for me, one that took quite some time to decide on. But now that I'm here, I don't regret it for a second! Seoul is more than I could have hoped. My first impression of this city has taught me never to believe what you read on the internet because as I was doing research while deciding if this was the right place for me, I came across a lot of negativity. The best bet is to speak with those that have already lived and worked here to know the real deal.

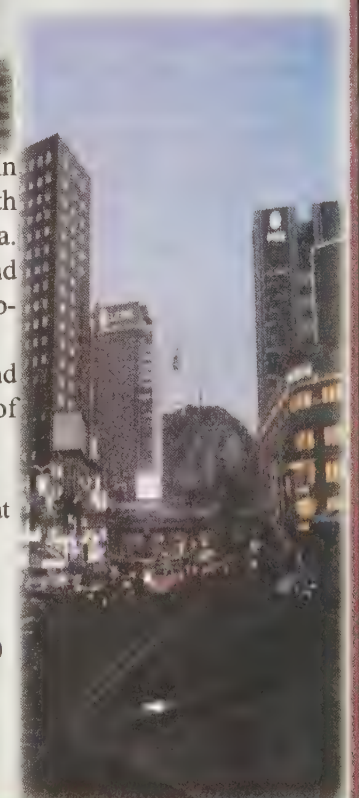
My stay here will be for a year, in which I hope to explore the south and get a glimpse of north Korea. I also hope to visit China and Japan, maybe even the Philippines.

This is my first time in Asia, and slowly I am reaching my goal of hitting all the continents.

You can read more on my travels at

www.annjaimi.com

(follow the links to my travel blog)



J: The Canadian economy is a growing concern especially to new grads and young people who are still trying to make ends meet with their first out-of-school job. The question that always boggles my mind is why is it so expensive to live in Toronto? It really doesn't make sense why rent is so high for a space equivalent to a box and usually really old and dusty. And it's not just rent, a night out in town can be anywhere between \$40 to \$100 depending on the venue and the kind of night (just dinner, maybe drinks) you choose to have. How are we supposed to afford all these expenses?

T: Yeah, the cost of everything does seem to be high and the scary part is, it's only getting higher. The working class and the poor are the ones who suffer the most backlashes. I remember the days as a teenager when we'd drive by a gas station and my dad would say "49 cents? That's pretty good" and he would pull in to pump a full tank. Gone are those days! Now we find ourselves saying "\$1.05? Not bad!"

And yes, it's definitely hard to even have a social life here. Eating out is a luxury, and the price of watching a movie in theatres is ridiculous! What happened to the \$4 ticket price? That's less than half of what the cost is these days and even less than the price of renting. And drinks! You have to wait until your next pay cheque (if you have one) before you go out for drinks in this city, unless of course, you're a cheap drunk.

J: Perhaps if we had a well-paying job then these expenses wouldn't seem to be so absurd. But with the Canadian economy these days, it seems like unless you're in a high-paying corporate type job, it really is unrealistic. And where are new grads supposed to get these jobs from when it seems like competition is to the max in all the work markets? This makes me wonder how possible it is to be successful in Toronto these days as a young, fresh grad. We all enter university or college with the hopes of having a successful financial life but with the tuition debt we accumulate plus these living expenses, it seems like we need to survive at home with the parents for at least a few years. How successful does this really make us? Where really is the future of Canadian grads?

T: Jobs are definitely hard to find, but it seems like the problems start well before the time comes to seek employment. School! Tuition is absurd in Ontario. When I hear of countries like France and Germany where tuition costs \$0, it makes me wonder how prosperous countries like those can get away with that when we have tuition fees sitting at as high as \$16,000 a year. When you're paying that much for an education (for just a year), unless your parents are rich, where are you going to go for assistance? – OSAP or line of credit! Which means you graduate with a loan the size of a mortgage, and just to pay that off takes 10 years – if you're lucky, and if you find a decent job. So it ends up being a never ending cycle of loan payments with interest, and this usually ends in a mess of overwhelming debt and eventually poverty...or fleeing the country.

That explains the growing tendency of kids (ie. 25-35 year olds) who are still living at home. Even if these young adults move out in an attempt to express their independence, they quickly run home anyway after it hits how difficult it is to survive out there. So regarding your question Where really is the future of Canadian grads? I guess the answer we lean towards is: On the streets...or at home with the parents!



Back by Popular Demand!



SHINE

OF THE MONTH

Sri Lankan born Suresh Joachim is internationally known for breaking over 30 world records. In fact, as of 2007 Joachim holds more than twenty records, which in itself is a world record! Suresh Joachim began his quest in 1996 with his first world record of running for 1000 consecutive hours. Since then he has dedicated his time to traveling around the globe and breaking interesting records such as drumming continuously for 84 hours in Switzerland and bowling for 100 hours in Canada. The EYECON had a chance to meet with this young shining star for a personal interview. After a brief introduction, we got the chance to get to know him. here are some questions we asked Suresh on behalf of EYECON readers.



If you could describe yourself in three words, what would it be?

Go-getter

Funny

Down-to-earth

What is your favourite quote?

"Do not wait for leaders, do it alone person to person." - Mother Teresa

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when 'you grow up'?

I wanted to be a Pilot.

What do you feel was the most challenging thing you have done so far?

All my world records are challenging in their own way. But I think the one that challenged me the most was

the brick carrying world record. Because I have to carry a 4.5 kg brick in a nominated ungloved hand in an un-cradled downward position. I failed the first attempt because I fainted after loosing so much blood. But I tried it again and now hold the world record. 126.675 Km. distance.

"I welcome all like-minded people to join and work for the same."

What was your inspiration to do the world peace marathon?

I was born in Sri Lanka where civil war has been going on over 35 years. I've seen people suffer including children and I wanted to do my part to bring peace to this world. The violence seems to be the answer for all sorts of problems these days and I wanted to promote peaceful solutions by making one day as a cease fire day. We can provide a day for all the citizen of this world to put away their differences and sit down and talk about their problems.

What do you do/say when people tell you that something is impossible?

Every time I come across some one who tell me that it is very impossible to do a certain world record I smile and tell them that I have faith in me and a supporting family and above all God is with me.

I believe that you are a role model to many young children around the world. What is your advice to those who look up to you?

You can achieve anything in this world if you believe in yourself. Don't ever give up when the going gets tough. TRUST IN GOD.

The great world record star is not only the most strongest or bravest but rather someone who sees an opportunity and makes the best of it. His most remarkable achievement is yet to come. Suresh is committed to helping children through the World Peace Marathon. He will begin the journey in 2009 in Jerusalem and make his way to Canada. Altogether he will walk across 54 countries with a total of 6,000 km! Suresh's most profound accomplishment will bring in one billion dollars towards his cause. In addition Suresh Joachim will submit a petition to the United Nation with a million signatures to make June 24 a global cease fire day.

The Eyecon thanks Suresh Joachim for his time and wishes him all the best in the future.

Best Wishes,
Ines I.



Some of the Records Suresh Joachim Holds

	Date	Place	Records
01	19/08/96 to 29/09/96	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Ran 3,495km
02	22/05/97 to 25/05/97	Devi Park Open Air Stadium, Sri Lanka	Balanced On One Foot For 76 Hours And 40 Minutes
03	25/05/98 to 31/05/98	Burwood, Nsw, Australia	Travelled Distance Of 225.44 km On Up & Down Escalators
04	N/A	The Florence St Mall Hornsby Nsw Australia.	Ran, Carrying A 4.5 Kg Brick 126.675 Km
05	01/02/04 to 04/02/04	The Magic Factory, Zurich, Switzerland	84hr Drumming Marathon
06	06/09/03	The Christ The King Church Mississauga Ontario, Canada	Accompanied By 79 Bridesmaids on his wedding
07	06/09/03	The Christ The King Church Mississauga Ontario, Canada	Longest Bouquet, Measuring 62.09 Metres In Length
08	06/09/03	The Christ The King Church Mississauga Ontario, Canada	Accompanied By 47 Groomsmen on His Wedding
09	28/11/04	Club One Square One, Mississauga Ontario, Canada	Ran A Distance Of 100 Km On A Treadmill In A Time Of 7 Hr 21 Min 40 Sec.
10	28/11/04	Club One Square One, Mississauga Ontario, Canada	Ran A Distance Of 100 Miles On A Treadmill In A Time Of 13 Hr 42 Min 33 Sec.
11	28/11/04	Club One Square One, Mississauga Ontario, Canada	Ran A Distance Of 257.88 Km (160.24 Miles) On A Treadmill In 24 Hour
12	29/11/04	Club One Square One, Mississauga Ontario, Canada	Ran A Distance Of 386.41 KM (240.11 Miles) On A Treadmill In 48 Hours
13	16/02/05 to 20/02/05	The Dixie Outlet Mall, Mississauga Ontario, Canada	The Longest Dance Marathon is 100 Hours
14	10/02/03 to 11/02/03	Spencer Plaza, Chennai, India	A Strong Group Of Musicians Led By Suresh Joachim Played Music For 42 Hr 52 Min
15	31/07/04 to 07/08/04	Waou Club Med Gym, Paris, France	Traveled 659.27 Km (409.65 Miles) On A Treadmill In One Week
16	08/06/05 to 12/08/05	Playtime Bowl In Toronto, Ontario, Canada	The Longest Tenpin Bowling Marathon Is 100 Hours
17		Australia	Non Stop Crawling 56.62 K.M
18	24/08/05 to 27/08/05	Hilton Garden Inn Toronto Canada	Rock On A Rocking Chair Continuously 75 Hours
19	22/09/05 to 24/09/05	Shoppers World	Ironed Continuously For 55 Hours 5

Suresh Joachim

May 1, 2004 - Eight former Communist nations and two Mediterranean countries joined the European Union (EU) marking its largest-ever expansion. The new members included Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, along with the island of Malta and the Greek portion of the island of Cyprus. They joined 15 countries already in the EU, representing in all 450 million people.

Birthday - Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903) was born in Carpino, Italy (as Gioacchino Pecci). He was elected Pope in 1878 at age 67 and lived to govern the church another 25 years, laying the foundation for modernization of Church attitudes toward a rapidly industrializing and changing world.

Birthday - Golda Meir (1898-1978) was born in Kiev, Russia. She was one of the founders of the modern state of Israel and served as prime minister from 1969 to 1974.

May 4, 1494 - During his second journey of exploration in the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica.

May 5 - Celebrated in Mexico as Cinco De Mayo, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla in 1862, in which Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza, outnumbered three to one, defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III.

May 5, 1893 - The Wall Street Crash of 1893 began as stock prices fell dramatically. By the end of the year, 600 banks closed and several big railroads were in receivership. Another 15,000 businesses went

bankrupt amid 20 percent unemployment. It was the worst economic crisis in U.S. history up to that time. **Birthday** - Founder of modern Communism Karl Marx (1818-1883) was born in Treves, Germany. He co-authored Das Kapital and The Communist Manifesto, advocating the ~~abolition of all private property and a~~ system in which workers own all the means of production, land, factories and machinery.

Birthday - Pioneering American journalist Nellie Bly (1867-1922) was born in Cochran's Mills, Pennsylvania (as Elizabeth Cochrane). She was a social reformer and human rights advocate who once posed as an inmate in an insane asylum to expose inhumane conditions. She is best known for her 1889-90 tour around the world in 72 days, beating by eight days, the time of Phileas Fogg, fictional hero of Jules Verne's novel Around the World in Eighty Days.

May 6, 1527 - The Renaissance ended with the Sack of Rome by German troops as part of an ongoing conflict between the Hapsburg Empire and the French Monarchy. German troops killed over 4,000 Romans, imprisoned the Pope, and looted works of art and libraries. An entire year passed before order could be restored in Rome.

May 6, 1937 - The German airship Hindenburg burst into flames at 7:20 p.m. as it neared the mooring mast at Lakehurst, New Jersey, following a trans-Atlantic voyage. Thirty six of the 97 passengers and crew were killed. The inferno was caught on film and also witnessed by a commentator who broke down amid the emotional impact and exclaimed,

"Oh, the humanity!" The accident effectively ended commercial airship traffic.

Birthday - Founder of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) was born in Freiberg, Moravia. His theories became the foundation for treating psychiatric disorders by psychoanalysis and offered some of the first workable cures for mental disorders.

Birthday - Explorer Robert E. Peary (1856-1920) was born in Cresson, Pennsylvania. He organized and eight Arctic expeditions and reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. In another expedition, he proved Greenland is an island. He also proved the polar ice cap extends beyond 82° north latitude, and discovered the Melville meteorite.

May 7, 1915 - The British passenger ship Lusitania carrying 2,000 passengers was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, losing 1,198 of its 1,924 passengers, including 114 Americans. The attack hastened neutral America's entry into World War I. Previous to the attack, the German ambassador had issued a warning printed in New York newspapers that it was unwise to travel on ships entering a war zone carrying cargoes vital to the Allies.

May 7, 1945 - In a small red brick schoolhouse in Reims, Germany, Field Marshall Alfred Jodl signed the ~~unconditional~~ ~~surrender of all~~ German fighting forces thus ending World War II in Europe. Russian, American, British and French ranking officers observed the signing of the document which became effective at one minute past midnight on May 9, 1945. Jodl was then ushered in to

F R E E D O M

*The Jews, the Irish and the Blacks pre-Lincoln
Makin' our fellow man slaves, really what were they thinkin'?
How about Alcatraz, Auschwitz and that tower in London?
When caging our brethren was almost a matter of fun then
Slaves and prisoners of all types, times and places
Countless stories, Endless faces
And yet still among the millions one thing holds true
All lost their freedom; all lost the ability to choose
The loss of freedom is not so easily explained
The eyes of a prisoner can put every word to shame
For he has so eagerly held the delusion of reprieve
Awaited his mighty savior or miraculous release
He has had to constantly swallow the bitter pill of rejection
He has to continually cope with the loss of affection
He alone knows the great joy a simple letter can bring
He alone knows how to turn nothing into everything
The prisons of old differ from the prisons of today
Yet the prisoners are still the same in that fundamental way
The times have changed so we now move more freely
But stop to think, Are we really free? Really?
Our minds are like clay so easy to shape them
It's sad to see how quickly we are then shaped by them
We are enslaved by our addictions, conditioned behaviors and habits
We become programmed to buy things by all of our gadgets
We confuse faith with ignorance, vengeance with justice
We have a conscience and a spirit yet we refuse to trust it
I hope this isn't a game, but if it is we must win
Just remember?*



Art by Salim N.

Poem By Bishop Charles Gomez

TIPS ON PREVENTING THE COMMON COLD AND FLU

By: Ranjith Mahendranathan BPHE, DC (Candidate)

Did you know that the common cold is the single largest reason why Canadians see their family doctor each year? In a recent survey of 1,266 randomly selected University of Toronto students, almost 25% attributed a cold, flu or sore throat as affecting their academic performance. At one time or another we've all experienced the symptoms of a cold, such as a runny nose, dry cough, sore throat, muscle aches and pains and sneezing. Since there is currently no cure to combat the common cold or flu, it is imperative we each play a more proactive role in preventing them. Colds and flu occur most often in the winter months when we spend most of our time indoors. Some people are still under the assumption that we get a cold by getting wet or chilled; however, this is not the case. When we spend most of our time inside as we do in the winter, this allows easier transmission of the virus from one person to another because we are in close proximity.

A cold or flu is caused by a virus that is transmitted through hand to hand contact and air droplets that are caused by a sneeze and cough. A cold and flu have very similar symptoms as mentioned above but colds tend to be mild while the flu can be more severe, causing fever and severe headaches. Both last about 3-5 days but with the flu you may experience symptoms for up to three weeks. The flu virus periodically undergoes mutation during the spread from person to person and this explains why a new flu shot is available each year for our protection. Every year the most common forms of the viruses are classified and used to create the latest flu vaccine. When you do get the virus, antibiotics cannot be used against it, so we must rely on our bodies immune system to fight off the virus. Since there is no known cure for colds and flu, prevention should be everyone's number one priority.

Top 10 Tips for Prevention:

- #1. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day
- #2. Avoid sneezing into your hands. Use a tissue or the upper sleeve of your sweater
- #3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- #4. Drink eight 8-ounce glasses of water each day.
- #5. Eat a balanced nutrient rich diet. Eat dark green, red and yellow vegetables and fruits
- #6. Get adequate sleep (7-9 hours each night)
- #7. Do aerobic exercise regularly (30-60 minutes, atleast 3 times per week)
- #8. Avoid smoking. Smokers get more severe colds more frequently
- #9. Reduce alcohol consumption to 1 drink per day
- #10. Reduce stress and try relaxation techniques



Dry with paper towel



1. Wet your hands



2. Apply solution and scrub for at least 15 seconds



Turn off water lever using your elbows



3. Rinse your hands



4. Scrub back of hands, wrists, between fingers and under fingernails

Ranjith Mahendranathan is a graduate of the University of Toronto, Physical and Health Education Program. He has a specialization in Kinesiology and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Chiropractic degree at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. His interests are primarily in holistic health, rehabilitation and sports medicine.



Technology is ever-changing and evolving in our day and age. There are several products that come out on to the market and either evolve or dissolve; succeed or fail. It is becoming increasingly challenging for people to keep up with technology regardless of them being either an amateur or expert in the field because that is how fast the area is evolving.

Apple Inc. is one of the largest companies in the technological world. There are very few people who have not heard of them. For those of you who have not heard of them, Apple Inc. is a multinational American corporation whose focus is on designing and manufacturing consumer electronics and closely related software products. Established in Cupertino, California on April 1, 1976, Apple develops, sells, and supports a series of personal computers, portable media players, mobile phones, computer software, and computer hardware and hardware accessories. As of September 2007, the company operates about 200 retail stores in five countries and an online store where hardware and software products are sold. The iTunes Store provides music, audio books, iPod games, music videos, episodes of television programs, and movies which can be downloaded using iTunes on Mac or Windows (and in Linux under Wine), and also on the iPod touch and the iPhone.

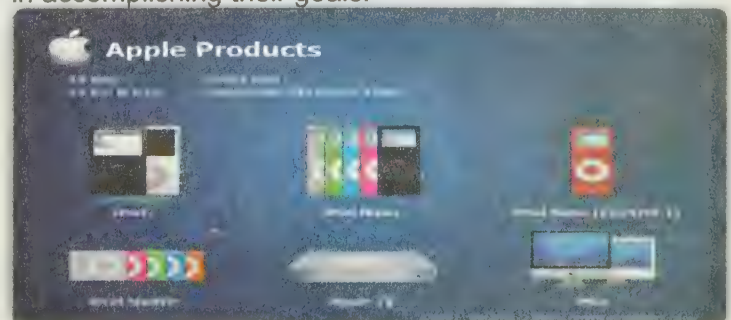
Apple's latest release at the end of Q4 of 2007 was the long waited Apple iPod touch. Apple's target was to increase their market share in the mp3 market as some of their close competitors were Archos, Sandisk, & Creative. Apple had an astounding 55% market share in the mp3 market and after the release of the itouch they finished off Q4 with just over 63%. The sudden release of their all new itouch grabbed a lot of attention by many consumers all around the world. Part of the reason is not because of their marketing, but simply because of the reliability and the advance technologies that Apple generates in manufacturing their products. Apple Inc. also released an innovative product from the itouch called the iphone. This has generated a lot of interest in the north American market and Apple will soon be taking a bite out of the cellular market shares' pie.

APPLE HEADQUARTERS IN CUPERTINO, CA



. It is unknown as to when it will be carried in Canada as it was stated that there will be an eight month waiting period from the release date in the U.S. There is no doubt that Apple will be increasing their profits and market shares in the upcoming fiscal year with their new iphone release. The product is in such high demand that Canadians are crossing the border to get their hands on this new gadget.

Some of the reasons why Apple is a very successful company is because Apple has learned to adapt to new business ethics in this new era that we live in. We do not live in an era where demands have to meet supply. Most consumers already know what they want and what they need and in most case most consumers have all the necessities in life. We live in a marketing era where consumers need to be told why they should use a particular product a company manufactures. The consumers must be informed about the importance of their product and what positive impact owning that specific product will have on the consumer's life. Apple uses very strong business strategy and models in sending out the message to their consumers and also communicating as a team in understanding customers' wants and needs and applying it into a simple product that answers their demands. Apple will continue to multiply their profits in the years to come as long as they follow their strong business models and strategies in accomplishing their goals.



SOURCE: www.infinitephonesales.com/apple_inc

see Supreme Allied Commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who curiously did not find it his duty under stood the document. Eisenhower then informed Jodl that he would be held personally responsible for any deviation from the terms of the surrender. Jodl was then delivered away.

May 7, 1954 - The French Indochina War ended with the fall of Dien Bien Phu, marking Vietnam's victory over French colonial forces, which were then forced to withdraw from northern Vietnam. The country was then divided at the 17th parallel, with South Vietnam created in 1955.

May 8, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Battle of the Coral Sea began in which Japan would suffer its first defeat of the war. The battle, fought off New Guinea, marked the first time in history that two opposing carrier forces fought only using aircraft while the opposing ships never sighting each other.

May 8, 1945 - After Soviet leader Joseph Stalin refused to recognize the German surrender document signed at Reims, a second signing ceremony was held in Berlin. During the elaborate ceremony, German General Wilhelm Keitel signed the second surrender document which declared, as did the first, that hostilities would end as of 12:01 a.m. on May 8.

Birthday - International Red Cross founder and Nobel Prize winner Henri Dunant (1828-1910) was born in Geneva, Switzerland. He was also a founder of the YMCA and organized the Geneva Conventions of 1863 and 1864.

Birthday - Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) the 33rd U.S. President was born in Lamar, Missouri. He became president upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in April of 1945. Two weeks after becoming president he was informed of the top secret atomic bomb project. In the war against Japan, an Allied invasion of Japan was being planned which would cost a minimum of 250,000 American lives. Truman then authorized the dropping of the bomb. On August 6, 1945, the atom bomb exploded over Hiroshima, followed by a second bomb dropped on Nagasaki on August 9. The next day, Japan sued for peace. Truman served as President until January of 1953. He was the last of nine U.S. Presidents who did not attend college. His straightforward, honest, no-nonsense style earned him the nickname, "Give 'em hell, Harry."

May 9 - Victory Day in Russia, a national holiday commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II and honoring 20 million Soviets who died in the war.

May 9, 1862 - During the U.S. Civil War, Gen. David Hunter, Union commander of the Department of the South, issued orders freeing the slaves in South Carolina, Florida and Georgia. He did so without congressional or presidential approval. The orders were countermanded by President Abraham Lincoln ten days later.

May 10, 1994 - Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa. Mandela had won the first free election in South Africa despite attempts by various political foes to deter the outcome.

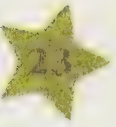
May 12, 1937 - George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. King George reigned until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, the current reigning monarch.

May 12, 1949 - The Soviet Union lifted its blockade of Berlin. The blockade began on June 24, 1948 and resulted in the Berlin airlift. For 462 days - from June 26, 1948, until September 30, 1949, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies to two million isolated West Berliners. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from 11 Allied staging areas in West Germany. The planes were nicknamed "candy bombers" after pilots began tossing sweets to children. They also flew out millions of dollars' worth of products manufactured in West Berlin.

May 12, 1937 - George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. King George reigned until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, the current reigning monarch.

May 13, 1943 - During World War II in North Africa, over 250,000 Germans and Italians surrendered in the last few days of the Tunis campaign. British Gen. Harold Alexander then telegraphed news of the victory to Winston Churchill, who was in Washington attending a war conference. The victory re-opened Allied shipping lanes in the Mediterranean.

The Issues of Adoptions by Same-Sex Couples



Adoption by same-sex couples is an issue that is causing a lot of commotion at the moment. In Canada, adoption is within provincial or territorial jurisdiction and therefore there are no uniform standards across the country. On March 1st 2000, an amendment was made to Section 146 of Part VII of the Child and Family Services Act in the province of Ontario. This amendment ensured that same-sex couples can jointly apply for an adoption of a child who is not related to them and it will be processed without discrimination. It has been eight years since the amendment was made and yet same-sex couples continue to encounter barriers when they peruse adoptions. This is due to cultural prejudice and the ignorant assumption that homosexuals are mentally ill and questions the capacity of homosexuals as fit parents.

The attitude towards homosexuality as a mental illness is a major contributor to discrimination in adoption by same-sex couples. Extensive research conducted over three decades has shown that homosexuality is not a psychological maladjustment. In 1974 the American Psychiatric Association removed "homosexuality" from its list of mental disorders and stated "homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities". The American Psychological Association took the same position a year after and urged all mental health professionals to help dispel the stigma of mental illness that had long been associated with homosexual orientation.

The claim that homosexuals are not fit to be parents is another underlying objection to same-sex adoption. However, this claim has no empirical foundation. Research reveals that same-sex couples, in their capacity as parents, function similarly to heterosexual parents. Studies have found that there is also no noticeable difference between same-sex parents and heterosexual parents either in their overall mental health or in their approaches to child rearing. Division of household and family labour were also found to be relatively even between same-sex couples who are parenting together. The results of some studies even suggest that parenting skills of same-sex couples may be superior matched to those of heterosexual couples. One study on lesbian couples found parenting awareness skills were stronger than those of heterosexual couples. The same study further shows that there is greater parenting awareness among lesbian non-biological mothers than among heterosexual fathers. Other researches on same-sex parents have found that they can provide equally supportive home environments for children and have found no evidence that suggests that they are unfit to be parents. Therefore a person's sexual orientation is no basis upon which to make assumptions about that person's parenting capacity.

The fear that development of sexual identity in relation to gender identity, gender-role behaviour, and sexual orientation will be impaired among children placed with same-sex parents is another opposition for same-sex adoptions. Studies have revealed that development of gender identity in children of same-sex parents follows the expected pattern and that they were happy with their gender and that they had no desire to be a member of the opposite sex. Studies on gender-role behaviour among children of same-sex parents have also reported that they fell within typical limits for conventional sex roles. No differences have been found between the children of same-sex parents or the children of heterosexual parents in toy preferences, activities, interests, or occupational choices. There have also been no differences found with respect to favourite television programs, television characters, or games. Studies of sexual orientation on children of same-sex parents have not found elevated rates of homosexuality among them. Thus, objections to same-sex adoptions on the basis of the potential sexual orientation of the child raised in a same-sex household is not only unfounded, but it also insinuates that it is wrong for a child to grow up to be a homosexual.

Another common concern is that children raised by same-sex parents will exhibit more developmental problems than those raised in heterosexual families. Studies on personal development such as separation-individuation, psychiatric evaluations, behaviour problems, personality, self-concept, school adjustment, and intelligence on children of same-sex parents suggest that they are no different from their counterparts raised by heterosexual parents. Studies have also included assessments of social relationships between children of same-sex parents and those of heterosexual parents. Studies on peer relations among children of same-sex parents suggest typical patterns of development. Similar to children of heterosexual parents, school-aged children of same-sex parents have been found to have same-sex best friends and predominantly same-sex peer groups. Studies of parent-child relationships on children of same-sex parents have reported positive relationships between parents and children. Sexual orientation of an adolescent's parent has not been found to affect the relationships with that parent. In other studies, children of same-sex parents have also been found to have regular contact with extended families, especially grandparents and also with adult friends of parents on a frequent and healthy basis.

NEED A BREAK?

<http://syndicate.yoogi.com/>

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Sudoku rules are extremely easy:
Fill all empty squares so that the
numbers 1 to 9 appear once in
each row, column and 3x3 box.

THE RIDDLE

There is a common English word that is nine letters long. Each time you remove a letter from it, it still remains an English word - from nine letters right down to a single letter. What is the original word, and what are the words that it becomes after removing one letter at a time?

Send your answer to editor@theeyecon.com
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Goddesscope Goddesscope



Aries March 21 - April 19

If you don't get up and take the challenge to move forward, you will never what's on the other side.



Taurus April 20 - May 20

Seek no further. What you have been searching for the past few months will soon show up.



Gemini May 21 - June 21

It's time for a change. Take a shower, take a walk, and say hi to a neighbor. You really need to start making a difference.



Cancer June 22 - July 22

All your financial trouble is slowly sinking away. But don't get too excited now. Create a new strategic plan so that you may never have financial trouble again.



Leo July 23 - August 22

Let the lion/lioness inside of you out and take part in a physical activity soon. It's time to rebuild your strength.



Virgo August 23 - September 22

There maybe something out there for you this spring season. Keep your eyes open because you don't want to miss this opportunity!



Libra September 23 - October 22

Open that book up that has been sitting on your shelf collecting dust all this time. There is some knowledge in there that you have yet to seek.



Scorpio October 23 - November 21

it's good to start talking to someone you haven't in a long time. They have good news for you.



Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

Bring out your creativity this season. Your beauty will be admired and desired upon.



Capricorn December 22 - January 19

If someone tells you something that startles you, don't ignore it. There's a hidden truth beyond those words.



Aquarius January 20 - February 18

It's time for your routine checkup. Your health comes first, so don't give it up for anything in the world.



Pisces February 19 - March 20

Someone is watching you. They look up to you and admire every move you make. Don't let them down.

Ask Sali

25

Dear Sali,

My parents have been bugging me out to get married by the end of this year. Now that I'll be done my studies, they are pressuring me each and everyday. I don't feel ready but at the same time I don't know how I can make them understand. What do u think I should do? -still young

Dear Still Young,

If you are not ready for marriage you should be able to outline your reasons to your parents why you feel that way. If you have other set goals that you want to achieve in the meantime, let them know about it. It's not like you are saying you won't get married, either. Sit them down and communicate in the most peaceful way, so they will take you seriously. First tell them, you are willing to get married soon but that can be in the next two years or so. You are just going to ask for some time so that you will be completely ready mentally and financially.

Dear Sali,

I am fed up with my son. He is a teenager I know he has bad friends, bad habits, teachers are complaining. My wife and I tried to punish him by not having friends and sending him on vacation to India. No change has occurred. Can you give us some of your opinion please.

-worried

Dear Worried,

Being a teenager is just as difficult as it is being a parent of one. Forbidding him to have any friends or forcing him to go elsewhere is not going to have a big impact on your child's behaviour. You probably want to try registering him in after school activities after his homework is completed, such as, sports teams, tutoring classes, music classes, and so much more! Limit the free time he has if that's what is causing him to get into trouble a lot. Set some limits and standards at home and outline the consequence of what will happen if any of these rules are broken. If any of these don't work, there is always family counselling and free guidance help from the school.

Same-Sex Couples [cont. from Pg. 23]

Clearly, there is no evidence that suggests that children of same-sex parents are less intelligent, less popular or more likely to have developmental problems than children of straight parents.

Although laws and regulations have been modified to allow same-sex couples to adopt, cultural prejudice still limits the possibility that they will be considered as adoptive parents. The census released by Statistics Canada for the year 2006 reveals that the traditional two-parent nuclear family constituted just 17 percent of all Canadian households while the Adoption Council of Canada reports that there are over 20,000 children in Canada waiting for adoption. Excluding same-sex couples as possible placement because of cultural prejudice will only result in children languishing longer in foster care. Adoption successes depend on the balance of resources and stressors that affect the family and not on family structure. Pushing for changes in adoption policies that encourage consideration of same-sex couples will benefit children awaiting adoptive families.

Angelo Arunan



Having lunch with a fellow co-worker, I was shocked to see this very thin woman counting the fat and sugar content in her meal, drinks and dessert to the very last calorie. She claimed she was going to walk home from work that day because she had a bottle of sweetened cranberry juice with 160 calories. And there I was, stuffing my second piece of chocolate mousse cake in my mouth, wondering what on earth was happening to the women of today's society.

Decades ago, a little extra fat was preferred in a woman. I remember studying in high school art class, Renoir's paintings of half nude chubby women, which were in those days a symbol of beauty. Today, beauty has been construed to mean bones. Models today look like they weigh no more than 90 lbs, if even that. The thinner you are, the more attractive you will be is the message that media falsely portrays.

Today, the shelves of Drug stores are filled with expensive bottles and cans of various diet pills and slimming drinks. Eating disorders such as

Bulimia and Anorexia Nervosa are becoming more and more prevalent. We think women who resort to these artificial forms of weight loss are 'insane' but are they really to blame? These women are products of media and American culture. They are adhering to the expectations of the society in which they live.

Almost every advertisement in magazines, newspapers and television has extremely thin women who are made to represent beauty. How many commercials have we seen with overweight women advertising clothing? Gone are the days where we have healthy looking celebrities; today we have Nicole Kidman, Nicole Ricci, Paris Hilton, and other very skins and bones artists, who are always on the face of popular, well-read magazines. The most prevailing news these days is about how many pounds Oprah Winfrey has managed to lose and how Weight Watcher's has helped many celebrities lose 20 lbs a month. Apparently Britney Spears' career jeopardizing move was to dance at the 2007 MTV music awards with some "flab" on her stomach, and this was discussed to death in magazines, newspapers, internet websites and television shows. People pay good money to read magazines filled with this sort of useless information.

Decades ago, young children were not aware of the difference between fat and skinny. Everybody looked the same in the innocent eyes of children; now however, the urge to lose weight and look a certain way starts much younger. Just recently, on the subway, I overheard a group of teenagers, no more than 15 years old, making fun of an overweight woman who had to occupy two seats on the train. Their crude and degrading comments lasted a few station stops. My 10 year old cousin's favourite actress is Mischa Barton, and when asked why she likes her so much, she replies, "Because she's skinny and pretty". Pretty because she's skinny.

Media corrupts children into believing that everyone must look like the models on Calvin Klein and Levi advertisements. They are made to believe that if you are not that thin, you are not acceptable to society. Unfortunately women are more affected by this stigma than men. Bulimia and Anorexia are much more common in females.

Unfortunately, forms of media such as these T.V. commercials and magazine advertisements seem to be the strongest messenger, and it is a wonder whether anything can override it. Hopefully, looking healthy comes back in style soon before we lose more and more women to eating disorders.

BY: Thusha Tharmalingam

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As they say, fashion recycles? The triple B is back! The **BIGGER, BOLDER and BRIGHTER** your outfits are, the more stylish you will look. The phrase 'the bigger the better' can refer to fashion too. We'll see how fashion has taken a sharp turn back into the 70s...

trendsette.com



Hair, Makeup and Accessories

Big hair, bold makeup, chunky accessories! For those of us who rely on frizz-ease and other poof control products, there is hope for us yet! Big hair is back. Straight hair is dull now; this spring curly, wavy, frizzy hair is the desirable way to go. Out goes the frizz control products, now the bed head inducing products are at the forefront of the hair products shelves. Do you wince at that big forehead when you look in the mirror? Now there's a quick fix! Bangs! Bangs have been in for some time now, but the fringes have recently made its way onto celebrities' heads. The heavy bangs look mysterious and sexy for women with straight hair.

Low waisted pants and skirts are also put to the backburner, now the A-list celebrities of all shapes and sizes are rocking the high waist pencil skirts, and high waist elephant leg jeans. The high waist pant is tasteful also to wider women as it makes the waist line look slightly narrower.

hauteiglam.blogspot.com



The big and bright patterns and floral prints that you thought was only acceptable for your pjamas are back with a bang. Rihanna's square print dress and Hayden's yellow striped dress tells us that anything goes. The crazier the print, the better the outfit.

Celebrities like Beyonce are loving the bright red lipstick. It makes the lips look luscious and with dull makeup everywhere else, bright lipstick adds character and of course it takes no time at all to apply. In the past, the less jewelry the better, but today, stars like Hilary Duff and J. Lo are sporting 5 chunky bracelets at once, coupled with big beaded necklaces.

Clothes

Colour colour colour! That is the motto of Spring 2008 fashion. Who says the more skin you show, the sexier you are? Tight and revealing clothes are no longer the only way to look sexy. Oversized, loose, off the shoulder tops and long, flowing skirts can look just as sexy. Something needs to be left to the imagination.

If you don't have time in the morning to put together an impressive outfit, just throw a scarf over your neck, and you're done. Scarves are small but they do big things for a simple outfit.



Remember how we wore sweaters to keep us warm in the winter? Sweaters are not your typical 'sexy' wear, but now they can be as can be seen in Hayden's sweater dresses. The body fitting lengthy sweaters, as well as the loose off the shoulder ones add a touch of sheek to the spring look.

May 13, 1981 - Pope John Paul II was shot twice at close range while riding in an open automobile in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Two other persons were also wounded. An escaped terrorist, already under sentence of death for the murder of Turkish journalist, was immediately arrested and was later convicted of attempted murder. The Pope recovered and later held a private meeting with the would-be assassin and then publicly forgave him.

Birthday - German physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736) was born in Danzig, Germany. He introduced the use of mercury in thermometers and greatly improved their accuracy. His name is now attached to one of the major temperature measurement scales.

May 17, 1792 - Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New York Stock Exchange. In good weather they operated under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street. In bad weather they moved inside to a coffeehouse to conduct business.

May 18, 1804 - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France, snatching the crown from the hands of Pope Pius VII during the actual coronation ceremony, and then crowning himself.

May 18, 1998 - In one of the biggest antitrust lawsuits of the 20th century, American software giant Microsoft Corporation was sued by the U.S. Federal government and 20 state governments charging the company with using unfair tactics to crush competition and restrict choice for consumers. The lawsuits alleged

Microsoft used illegal practices to deny personal computer owners the benefits of a free and competitive market and also alleged Microsoft extended its monopoly on operating systems to "develop a chokehold" on the Internet browser software market.

Birthday - Pope John Paul II was born (as Karol Wojtyla) in Wadowice, Poland, May 18, 1920. In 1978, he became 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, the first non-Italian elected in 456 years and the first Polish Pope.

Birthday - Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969) was born in the central Vietnamese village of Kim Lien (as Nguyen That Thanh). In 1930, he organized the Indo-Chinese Communist party and later adopted the name Ho Chi Minh, meaning "he who enlightens." In 1945, he proclaimed the independence of Vietnam and served as president of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1969. He led the longest and most costly 20th-century war against the French and later the Americans. On April 29, 1975, six years after his death, the last Americans left South Vietnam. The next day the city of Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

Birthday - Black nationalist and civil rights activist Malcolm X (1925-1965) was born in Omaha, Nebraska (as Malcolm Little). While in prison he adopted the Islamic religion and after his release in 1952, changed his name to Malcolm X and worked for the Nation of Islam. He later made a pilgrimage to Mecca and became an orthodox Muslim. He was assassinated while addressing a meeting in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on February 21, 1965.

May 20, 325 A.D. - The Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of Catholic Church was called by Constantine I, first Christian Emperor of the Roman Empire. With nearly 300 bishops in attendance at Nicaea in Asia Minor, the council condemned Arianism which denied Christ's divinity, formulated the Nicene Creed and fixed the date of Easter.

May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. The organization today provides volunteer disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad. Community services include collecting and distributing donated blood, and teaching health and safety classes.

May 21, 1991 - Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in the midst of a re-election campaign, killed by a bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers. He had served as prime minister from 1984 to 1989, succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.

May 22, 1972 - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow. Four days later, Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a pact pledging to freeze nuclear arsenals at current levels.

Birthday - Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was born at Edinburgh, Scotland. He was also deeply interested in and lectured on spiritualism.

This Month in History

May 24, 1844 - Telegraph inventor Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph message "What hath God wrought?" from the Capitol building in Washington to Baltimore.

May 27, 1937 - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

May 28, 1961 - Amnesty International was founded by London lawyer Peter Berenson. He read about the arrest of a group of students in Portugal then launched a one-year campaign to free them called Appeal for Amnesty. Today Amnesty International has over a million members in 150 countries.

Birthday - John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963) the 35th U.S. President was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was the youngest man ever elected to the presidency and the first Roman Catholic. He was assassinated in Dallas, November 22, 1963, the fourth U.S. President to be killed by an assassin.

May 30, 1922 - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. was dedicated. The Memorial was designed by architect Henry Bacon and features a compelling statue of "Seated Lincoln" by sculptor Daniel Chester French.

Birthday - Founder of the Russian empire Peter the Great (1672-1725) was born near Moscow. He vastly increased the power of the Russian monarchy and turned his backward country into a major power in the Western world. Among his accomplishments, he completely overhauled the government and the

Greek Orthodox Church as well as the military system and tax structure. He built St. Petersburg, established printing presses and published translations of foreign books, modernized the calendar, simplified the Russian alphabet and introduced Arabic numerals. He died at age 52 and was succeeded by his wife Catherine.

May 31, 1889 - Over 2,300 persons were killed in the Johnstown flood in Pennsylvania. Heavy rains throughout May caused the Conemaugh River Dam to burst sending a wall of water 75 feet high pouring down upon the city.

source: www.historyplace.com

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